

Fiesta Información

where industry meets military

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LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association held its annual Fiesta Información Conference, “Transformation: A Journey, Not a Destination” at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. In attendance were senior government, military and leading intelligence and technology industry leaders.

AFCEA International represents the professional communications, electronics, intelligence and information systems community. It is open to all services and provides an ethical forum in which government and industry leaders and decision-makers meet to exchange ideas and concepts through conferences, symposia, professional development opportunities, their own SIGNAL Magazine and more.

Founded in 1946, AFCEA represents more than 30,000 members, 1,000 corporate sponsors and 140 chapters worldwide.

This conference provided civilian and government experts in different informa-

tion technology fields an opportunity to present emerging technologies and exchange ideas while obtaining feedback on how to provide better products to assist the government in meeting the technological challenges of today, tomorrow and beyond necessary in executing its ever-changing and expanding missions.

Aside from educational information provided at the event, the conference coincided with the world-renowned Fiesta celebrations. It is through these festivities highlighting San Antonio pride, life, culture and the Armed Forces through a series of civilian and military river floats and parades among their many celebrations.

One of the keynote speakers, General John P. Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, spoke about the need for integration among products purchased off the shelf stating, “I went to a Combined Air Operations Center — the Staff Sgt. briefing me had three screens in front of him and had to type the same information into each computer because the systems didn't talk to each other — we need to be able to pull this information together for ease of use on one system... it is this type

of challenge we must overcome to stay ahead in this changing world.” He also talked about how improvements are needed in antiquated acquisition processes stating, “Certain countries can purchase newer, more modern F-16s than what we use and can take delivery in 18 months while our using current systems would take 10 years. We need to change this and meet current and future needs quickly versus years down the line.”

The Director of the National Security Agency echoed General Jumper's comments.

“We need to bring the customer as close to the raw intelligence product as possible, said Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden who is also the chief of the Central Security Service. “A pilot needs to know there is a SAM site ahead of him in real-time versus a complete Intel product detailing who manned the site, its comms and what its capabilities were two days ago.”

Other senior information technology leaders hosted panels and discussions on topics such as security, collaboration, integration and cyber-threat initiatives.

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, takes time during the conference for a picture with from left, Staff Sgt. Kelly Bales, 2nd Lt. Larry Fiala, Capt. Vince Lau, 2nd Lt. Dave Vega, 2nd Lt. Teresa Sorger and 1st Lt. Brian Duckworth from the 93rd Intelligence Squadron at Lackland AFB, Texas. The general was the keynote speaker for the event, which was hosted by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Courtesy photo

